

Two police officers killed in Colombia car bombing

AFP, Caldo

Two Colombian police officers were killed Saturday when criminals bombed their car, then hurled grenades and strafed it with gunfire, local authorities said.

The officers were near the town of Caldo, in southwestern Colombia, when their vehicle was "attacked with an explosive," the police said in a statement.

Officers Jorge Andres Quintero, 31, and Jhoan Sebastian Rodriguez, 25, were on their way to pick up a man detained at a nearby police station.

The statement added that guerrillas formerly with the FARC rebel group are active in the area, but did not directly assign blame.

Cauca police commander Colonel Edgar Orlando Rodriguez said at a press conference said that after the bombing the car was hit by "rifles bursts and fragmentation grenades."

President Juan Manuel Santos condemned the "cowardly murder" of the officers on Twitter, and vowed that "those responsible will pay."

Four soldiers, 10 jihadists killed in Sinai campaign

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's military said yesterday four soldiers and 10 jihadists were killed in a military operation in Sinai against Islamic State group jihadists.

The deaths raise military casualties to at least 16 dead, along with more than 100 jihadists, since the start of the operation on February 9, according to previous army tolls.

The army launched the campaign after Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is standing in elections for his second term this month, gave them a three month deadline to crush IS in Sinai.

Sisi issued his ultimatum in November after suspected Islamic State gunmen massacred more than 300 worshippers in a Sinai mosque associated with Muslim Sufi mystics.

IS in Sinai has been among the group's most resilient affiliates, killing hundreds of soldiers, policemen and civilians in Sinai and elsewhere in Egypt. It has killed scores of Christians in church bombings and shootings, and bombed a Russian airliner carrying tourists from an Egyptian resort in 2015, killing all 224 people on board.

1,010 Qawmi

FROM PAGE 16

function at East Square of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque around 2:30pm.

Bazul Haq Haroon, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry, will take part in the programme as the panel discussant.

RAM Obaidul Muktar Chowdhury, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on the CHT affairs ministry, M Anisur Rahman, acting religious affairs secretary, and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, religious affairs secretary of Awami League, among others, will attend the function as special guests.

Director General of Islamic Foundation Shamim Mohammad Afjal will preside over it.

TV stations

FROM PAGE 2

Ahmed -- Zafar Iqbal's elder brother -- in 2012, expressed his shock in the Facebook post and seemingly tried to console himself.

"It happens to everyone. You're going about your day when you get a call/text- someone you know is not doing well and you rush to the hospital to see them.

"Usually it's heart disease or a stroke or something...but no, not here. Not today. Someone in my family was attacked.

"Look, I just want the people around me to feel safe in this country but that doesn't seem to be a reality.

"For me, this isn't politics or ethics or ideals. This is family. And I'll tell you this, my family is incredibly strong and unbelievably resilient."

A strong Nuhash also expressed confidence about his family. "And no matter what comes its way, even through pain or violence or death - my family will continue to change the world."

"You can count on it."

Nishat Farzana Sinthy, one of his Facebook friends, wrote in a reply, "... And we look up to your family, always. Not everyone is this strong :) Not every family can bear so much..."

Doctors said Zafar Iqbal is now out of danger. The professor is undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

Bangabandhu in command

FROM PAGE 1

by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

It had become apparent that amid the movement, offices, businesses, educational institutions and other establishments conducted themselves according to Bangabandhu's directives. To show their support for the democratic cause, citizens of all categories came together at the residence of the Awami League chief, on Dhanmondi Road-32, which had by then become the centre of political influence.

The instructions given by the AL on a regular basis were voiced by Tajuddin Ahmed, the party's general secretary. There was no way out of this crisis for the Pakistan government, except declaring Bangladesh an independent state.

Dhaka city was further aggravated when, on the fifth day of the hartal, a curfew was imposed in Rangpur, while security forces and army resorted to gunfire in Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and Tongi.

In Tongi, four labourers were killed while 25 were injured.

It was then that the National Awami Party, led by Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, pledged its full support for Awami League's movement.

The government had then decided to order its soldiers back to the barracks, and this announcement was made in Dhaka.

Retired Air Marshall Asghar Khan reached Dhaka from Karachi in the evening to hold a meeting with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, while on the other hand, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan People's Party Chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto spoke to President

Yahya, in the latter's residence, for more than five hours.

After Bhutto and Yahya's meeting, the spokesperson for People's Party had stated that Awami League's reaction to the suspension of the National Committee meeting was utterly without reason.

Even then, all of West Pakistan's political quarters, except for a handful of rightwing politicians, were demanding a fast transfer of power to the Awami League to prevent political division in the country.

But there was no sign whatsoever of the Pakistani regime taking a step back in favour of a discussed settlement with Bangabandhu.

Instead, Yahya Khan was clear about what should be done -- provide necessary force, buy time for preparations, and then strike hard at the appropriate moment. To make that happen, General Tikka Khan arrived in Dhaka on this very day, 47 years ago, to be sworn in as Governor of East Pakistan on March 6.

On this end, Tofail Ahmed urged Dhaka Betar to directly transmit the speech to be delivered by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the March-7 rally on the Race Course ground (now Suhrawardy Udyan).

What the speech would be, the public knew not. But a vast majority of Bangalees, however, expected Bangabandhu to declare independence.

While the suspense kept growing, what everybody did know was that the days to come would not be easy. For anyone.

Vietnam set

FROM PAGE 16

Goods from Bangladesh have a competitive edge in the countries where Bangladesh enjoys duty benefits.

Bangladeshi goods also have preferential access to China, Malaysia, South Korea, several South American countries including Chile.

At least three other trade and investment agreements are likely to be signed during the three-day visit of Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang.

Shafiu Islam Mohiuddin, president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries, said a Vietnamese food company would sign an agreement with an organic food company in Bangladesh to embark on a joint venture here in Bangladesh.

A group of Vietnamese businesspersons is accompanying President Tran.

"We will form a joint business council for facilitating bilateral trade between the two countries," Mohiuddin said, adding that the FBCCI had similar councils with many other countries.

The FBCCI and the Vietnam Chambers of Commerce and Industry will also sign agreements for strengthening cooperation in trade and investment between the two countries, he said.

The visiting president and his entourage will hold a business forum in Dhaka to discuss the challenges and prospects in bilateral trade and investment, according to Mohiuddin.

Trade between Vietnam and Bangladesh is heavily tilted towards Vietnam with Bangladesh importing goods worth \$417 million in 2016-17.

At the same period, Bangladesh's export to the country was only worth \$66.44 million, according to the FBCCI.

VIETNAM PRESIDENT IN DHAKA President Tran Dai Quang arrived in Dhaka yesterday with a 195-member delegation on a three-day visit, which is expected to be a landmark in advancing bilateral political and economic ties.

Vietnam hopes to strengthen investment in Bangladesh in the sectors of telecommunications, information technology, agriculture, food processing, textile, oil and gas, consumer goods, and infrastructure development and services.

The Vietnam president's visit is aimed at securing Bangladesh's support in the 2019 election for the Non-Permanent seats on the UN Security Council, said diplomatic sources.

Dhaka is expected to officially extend its support to Vietnam during the official talks scheduled for 10:00am at the Prime Minister's Office.

The UNSC election will be held in mid-2019 during the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly for five non-permanent seats for two-year mandates commencing on January 1, 2020, when tenure of Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Kuwait, Peru and Poland will expire.

Diplomatic sources said Tran came to Bangladesh after a three-day visit to India where he secured the support he had been looking for.

In the evening, President Abdul Hamid will host a banquet in honour of his Vietnam counterpart Tran Dai Quang at the Bangabhaban.

Sniffed out by the dogs

FROM PAGE 1

The police team was undeterred. They called in a sniffer dog.

It paid off. The dog indicated to its handler that there was something in the chassis and the shock absorbers, said a police officer who was a member of the team.

The mechanics opened up the bike. At least 2,000 yaba pills were found inside the frame and another 3,000 inside the shocks.

During police interrogation, Antu said he had been a yaba mule for over seven years and until now, police had not been able to discover the pills inside the bike, said Rahmatullah Chowdhury, additional deputy commissioner of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit.

Antu elaborated that they fill the bike with yaba pills and then send it to Dhaka from Cox's Bazar and sometimes Chittagong using courier service.

After the bike is received in Dhaka, it is taken to their den where a mechanic extracts the pills.

The bike is sent back the next day by courier.

ADC Rahmatullah said the yaba smugglers change courier service providers for sending and receiving bikes.

The CITC discovered this innovative method of yaba smuggling after they had arrested Sarowar Sohag, 32, a Tanti League Dhaka City unit leader, Sanjida Rajia Borna, 45, and Omar Faruk, 22, at Azimpur earlier that evening.

They found 14,000 yaba pills in their possession.

During interrogation, the three told police that another drug smuggler was waiting at Palashi Residential Area

Gate-2 to hand over a consignment and that he was on a motorbike with a Chittagong plate.

ADC Rahmatullah said during primary interrogation, they learnt that the gang receives three to four such shipments, each with 10,000 to 15,000 pills. The gang has six bikes designated for moving yaba.

Sometimes, police stop the bikes but they are usually let go as nothing is found in them, said a police official, quoting the arrestees.

Sohag has been involved in yaba smuggling for two years, claimed investigators, adding that he leads the gang in Dhaka.

CITC ADC Ahmedul Islam, who is coordinating the investigation, said at least 25 more suspects are in this gang and they have some names too. "We are now conducting drives to arrest the others," he added.

An intelligence report prepared by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police earlier found the existence of nearly 100 godfathers, mostly from the Awami League and its front organisations, patronising drug smuggling, particularly yaba, in the capital.

The dealers often use innovative techniques for shipments. Some even operate transport agencies in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar to move drugs.

A team of CITC yesterday produced Antu and the other three before a Dhaka court seeking 10-day remand for each in the case filed with Lalbagh Police Station.

The court granted two-day remand for each.

US wants to see

FROM PAGE 16

countries, including the US, are welcome.

Termining Bangladesh an "important partner" of the Indo-Pacific strategy of the Trump administration, Curtis said Washington would stand by Bangladesh to resolve the Rohingya crisis and continue to press Myanmar to create conditions so that the Rohingyas could return home with safety and security.

According to a foreign ministry press release, the ongoing Rohingya issue featured prominently in the meetings. Curtis shared her experience of Cox's Bazar where she talked to the refugees.

She deeply appreciated Bangladesh's role in sheltering the persecuted Rohingyas and providing them with necessary support. She said Bangladesh could be a model in the world on how to deal with such humanitarian situations.

Curtis also offered further US assistance to deal with the challenges ahead, especially during the upcoming monsoon.

Foreign Minister Ali thanked the US for strong political and humanitarian support for Bangladesh in addressing the crisis. He urged the US to continue playing a strong role at the UN Security Council.

Ali also stressed the need for sustained pressure of the international community, including the US, on the Myanmar government to create a safe and secure condition in Rakhine State for the safe and sustainable repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Curtis assured that Rohingya issue was now a part of the US policy discussion and it would continue with the pressure on Myanmar.

On the repatriation of the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Curtis said she would convey the message to the high dignitaries in Washington.

The top official of the US administration, who warped her three-day visit yesterday, also held a meeting with

Prime Minister's Security Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and discussed the prospect of strengthening bilateral cooperation in the areas of defence and security.

Curtis also called on PM's International Affairs Adviser Gowher Rizvi prior to departing yesterday evening.

MEETING WITH BNP The BNP yesterday briefed Curtis on the political situation in Bangladesh, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's conviction, and the upcoming parliamentary elections, reports our staff correspondent.

A BNP delegation, led by its Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, met Curtis at US Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat's residence in the afternoon.

"We had a closed-door meeting. We discussed the overall situation of the country," Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, a standing committee member of the party, told The Daily Star.

He, however, refused to say anything in details. The BNP also did not formally say anything about the meeting.

Meeting sources said the BNP leaders told Curtis that the government was dillydallying on matters regarding the bail of Khaleda and that the government wants to hold a one-sided election keeping the BNP out.

In response, Curtis told the BNP team that the US wants an inclusive election with the participation of all political parties, said a BNP leader wishing not to be named.

Anti-graft body

FROM PAGE 16

was recommended.

Giving superintendent engineers the power to monitor construction works and ensure accountability of subordinate engineers was also advised.

In the five-page letter, ACC said the authorities should scrutinise the tender process, project estimates and conduct regular field inspections.

Tripura to get BJP CM

FROM PAGE 16

but asked him to hold charge until the formal transfer of power.

In Meghalaya, National People's Party (NPP) leader Conrad Sangma yesterday met Governor Ganga Prasad to stake claim to form the next government in the state with the support of 34 MLAs. NPP won 19 seats in the election.

Earlier, the Congress submitted a letter to Prasad naming Mukul Sangma as the leader of the Meghalaya Congress Legislature Party.

The result of Meghalaya assembly polls delivered a split verdict with Congress as the largest party with 21 seats, ten short of the majority mark.

The NPP had categorically dismissed the possibility of an alliance with the Congress - citing the fact that it "fought against the Congress in this election."

The swearing-in ceremony is likely to take place on March 6, reported ANI.

In Nagaland, NDPP leader and three-time chief minister Neiphiu Rio is set to form the government with the support of 32 MLAs in the 60-member Assembly.

The NDPP and the BJP have won 18 and 12 seats respectively while the lone JD(U) MLA G Kaito Aye and Independent legislator Tongpang Ozukum were backing the alliance, NDPP secretary general Abu Metha said. Congress failed to win a single seat.

With control of Tripura and Nagaland, the BJP-led National

Democratic Alliance (NDA) now rule 21 of India's 29 states, boosting its prospects for a win in the federal elections scheduled for 2019.

Five of India's seven northeastern states is now in NDA's control reshaping the political landscape of the region bordering Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The NDA already controls Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. Congress-ruled Mizoram will vote later this year.

India's main opposition Congress party, which has ruled the country for most of the time since independence in 1947, is now reduced to ruling three states.

The outcome in the election seems to have interrupted the momentum that the Congress was building against the Modi government following its improved performance in Gujarat and the bypoll victories in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

The results are also expected to help the BJP keep up its electoral momentum for the crucial electoral battle in Karnataka in about two months and expand its footprint to new areas for the crucial electoral battle in 2019 Lok Sabha polls.

The results are also expected to boost the morale of BJP workers in the difficult challenges the party faces to retain Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh at the end of the year.

'Dreamers' deadline to come and go with no action by US Congress

AFP, Washington

Congress will hit an initial deadline today for resolving the fate of "Dreamers," with nothing to show for months of negotiations over nearly two million immigrants who arrived in the US illegally as children.

When President Donald Trump last September scrapped a program that shielded large numbers of young arrivals from deportation, he gave lawmakers six months to craft a solution.

They bickered. Young immigrants and activists launched fiery protests. Trump himself relentlessly thrust himself into the thorny debate, tweeting about Democrats "blowing the one great opportunity they have" to forge a deal.

No deal ever came, leaving nearly 700,000 young immigrants who signed up for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in potential legal limbo, and a Congress red-faced over its monumental failure.

The court system has given a temporary reprieve. Two federal judges ruled that the Trump administration cannot immediately begin deporting DACA recipients after March 5 while courts weigh legal challenges over ending the program, and that the immigrants can begin applying for renewals under the court order.

Trump recently sought to get that order overturned by the Supreme Court, but the justices declined to intervene, meaning it could take months before appeals courts determine how officials can proceed.

While the courts give DACA recipients breathing room beyond March 5, activists and lawmakers warn that extra time is not what focuses the mind in Washington.

"When we have a deadline... we get really serious about it," number two Senate Democrat Dick Durbin

told National Public Radio. "And now we don't have that deadline in the same way we did before the court decision."

Members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus wrote Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen seeking her assurance that agents will not target DACA recipients whose status has lapsed.

"Unfortunately, President Trump has repeatedly demonstrated that he does not truly want to solve this DACA crisis," they wrote Thursday.

"Given this posture, it is critical that DHS ensure that DACA recipients are not deported from the only country they have known."

Congress had every opportunity to legislate a fix, but the fate of Dreamers has proved too divisive for lawmakers to resolve.

Last month, Democrats essentially forced a brief government shutdown over the issue, demanding that the Senate's Republican leaders set aside time to debate immigration.

They agreed, but despite one week of floor debate last month, the Senate failed to pass any of a series of proposals addressing Dreamers.

Among them was a Trump-backed plan that would provide a pathway to citizenship for 1.8 million Dreamers, in exchange for billions of dollars in border security funding and dramatic curtailment of legal immigration.

Instead, the Senate could punt. A bipartisan pair of senators introduced bare-bones legislation this week that provides a three-year DACA extension along with three years of boosted border security funding.

The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.

Gazipur
Website: www.spcl.org.bd
Local e-Tender

Electronic tenders (e-Tenders) are hereby invited from the competent local manufacturers/ suppliers for supply of the following items for this corporation as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available at web: etender.spcl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. It is to mention here that this is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted and no hard copy will be accepted except price of e-Tender schedule and earnest money. To submit e-Tender bidders need to register on etender.spcl.org.bd/114.130.43.56. For more details please contact cell: 88-01534002183 & 88-01534002184. Necessary information is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the items	Date of publish of e-Tender	Last date and time for submission of e-Tender	Date & time for opening of e-Tender	Price per e-Tender schedule (non-refundable)
1.	1,860 packets White Mat Board	05.03.2018	02.04.2018 up to 11.00am	02.04.2018 at 11.15am	Tk 300/-
2.	164 reams White Paper and 3,282 packets Green Board	05.03.2018	02.04.2018 up to 11.00am	02.04.2018 at 11.15am	Tk 1,000/-

Bidders may collect the e-Tender schedule from the abovementioned website. Bidders need to submit earnest money separately @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh in favour of the "Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur" along with the price of e-Tender schedule in the form of a separate Account Payee Cheque/Pay-Order/DD in the tender box kept at corporation's office in Gazipur on or before the scheduled deadline for submission of e-Tender. e-Tender(s) without earnest money and price for procurement of e-Tender schedule shall not be acceptable. The e-Tender shall have to submit as per e-Tender guidelines mentioned at above website. Offer(s) shall be opened as per schedule mentioned above in presence of the tenderer(s) if any. 01 (one) e-Tender schedule is applicable only for one supplier/manufacturer for submitting one offer along with earnest money and price of e-Tender schedule. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any e-Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case of informing any change related to the tender the authority reserves the right to publish it only the website. Submission of e-Tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Rashid Ahmed
General Manager (Local Purchase & Sales)
Phone: 88-02-9205103